

# The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶



✱ 1

story: ISAO MIURA  
art: KOTARO YAMADA



IT'S HIT  
THE END  
OF ITS  
LIFESPAN,  
THAT'S  
ALL.

FORTY-FOUR YEARS AFTER  
THE END OF THE VALBANILL WAR.



IS  
THERE  
ANY WAY  
YOU  
COULD  
REFORGE  
IT?

I'M  
AFRAID  
NOT.

WE'VE JUST  
CRACKED THE  
MOLDS ON  
SOME NEW  
SWORDS.  
HOW ABOUT  
ONE OF  
THOSE?

"HOLSMAN" — ONE OF THE  
INDEPENDENT TRADE CITIES.

THIS BLADE  
IS AN  
HEIRLOOM  
FROM MY  
FATHER, AND  
HIS FATHER  
BEFORE HIM.  
IT IS MY HEART  
MADE STEEL.

NO,  
THANKS.

CHING



*There was once a horrific war  
that made full use of the  
Demon Pact on a continent.  
And it is—now.*

SO WHEN  
I GO TO  
BATTLE,  
I WANT  
NONE OTHER  
THAN THIS  
BLADE  
IN MY  
HANDS.

# *The Sacred Blacksmith* 聖剣の刀鍛冶

フ ラ ッ ク ス ミ ス



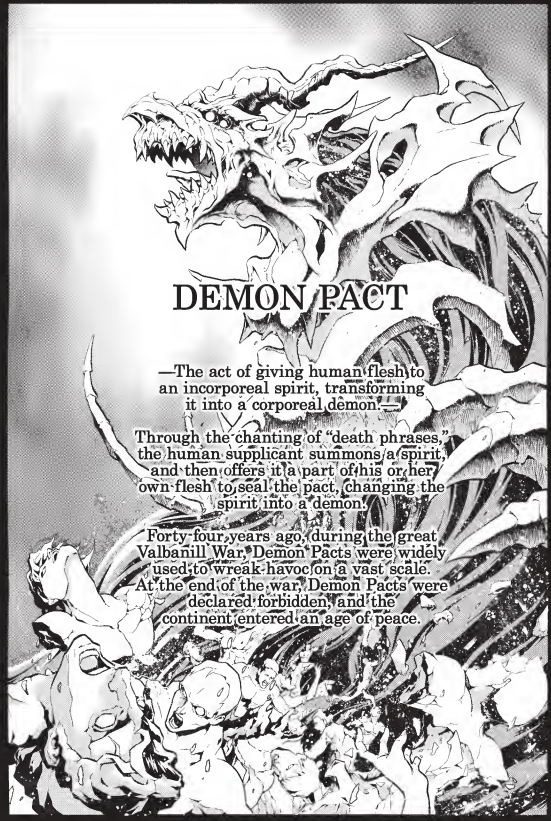
## *Volume 1*

*Art by  
Kotaro Yamada*

*Story by  
Isao Miura*

*Character Design by  
Luna*





## DEMON PACT

—The act of giving human flesh to an incorporeal spirit, transforming it into a corporeal demon.—

Through the chanting of “death phrases,” the human supplicant summons a spirit, and then offers it a part of his or her own flesh to seal the pact, changing the spirit into a demon.

Forty-four years ago, during the great Valbanill War, Demon Pacts were widely used to wreak havoc on a vast scale. At the end of the war, Demon Pacts were declared forbidden, and the continent entered an age of peace.





YOU  
THERE!  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING?!



LOOKS TO  
ME LIKE  
SOME  
VAGRANT'S  
GONE  
CRAZY.



SAY,  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON  
OVER  
THERE?



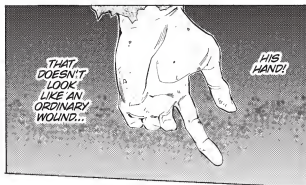


I AM A  
MEMBER  
OF THE  
INDEPENDENT  
TRADE CITIES'  
KNIGHT GUARD,  
THIRD DISTRICT  
CORPS!!

MY  
NAME IS  
CECILY  
CAMPBELL!

SHING

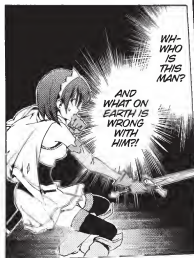






CEASE  
THIS,  
YOU--

OH  
GODS!



WH-  
WHO  
IS  
THIS  
MAN?

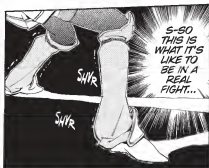
AND  
WHAT  
ON  
EARTH  
IS  
WRONG  
WITH  
HIM?!



NH  
....

ARGH!  
ENOUGH,  
CECILY  
CAMPBELL,  
THIS IS  
PATHETIC!

HALE, THE CITY IS  
STANDING HERE,  
WATCHING YOU!



S-SO  
THIS IS  
WHAT IT'S  
LIKE TO  
BE IN A  
REAL  
FIGHT...



HAAH

HAAH



H  
A  
A  
A  
A  
H!!



STOP  
BEING  
SUCH A  
COWARD!!



HUH...?





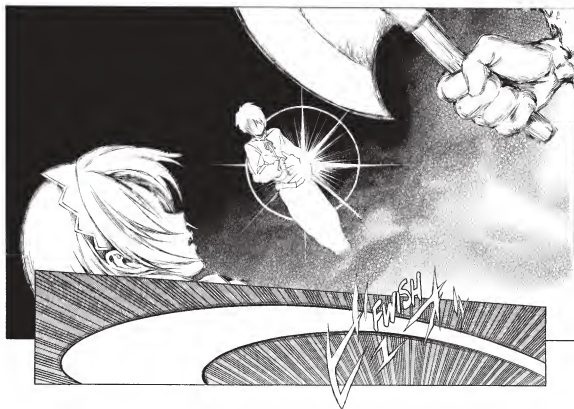
IT  
BROKE...!

IT...



THE  
ANCESTRAL  
BLADE OF THE  
VENERABLE  
HOUSE  
CAMPELL  
JUST  
BROKE!





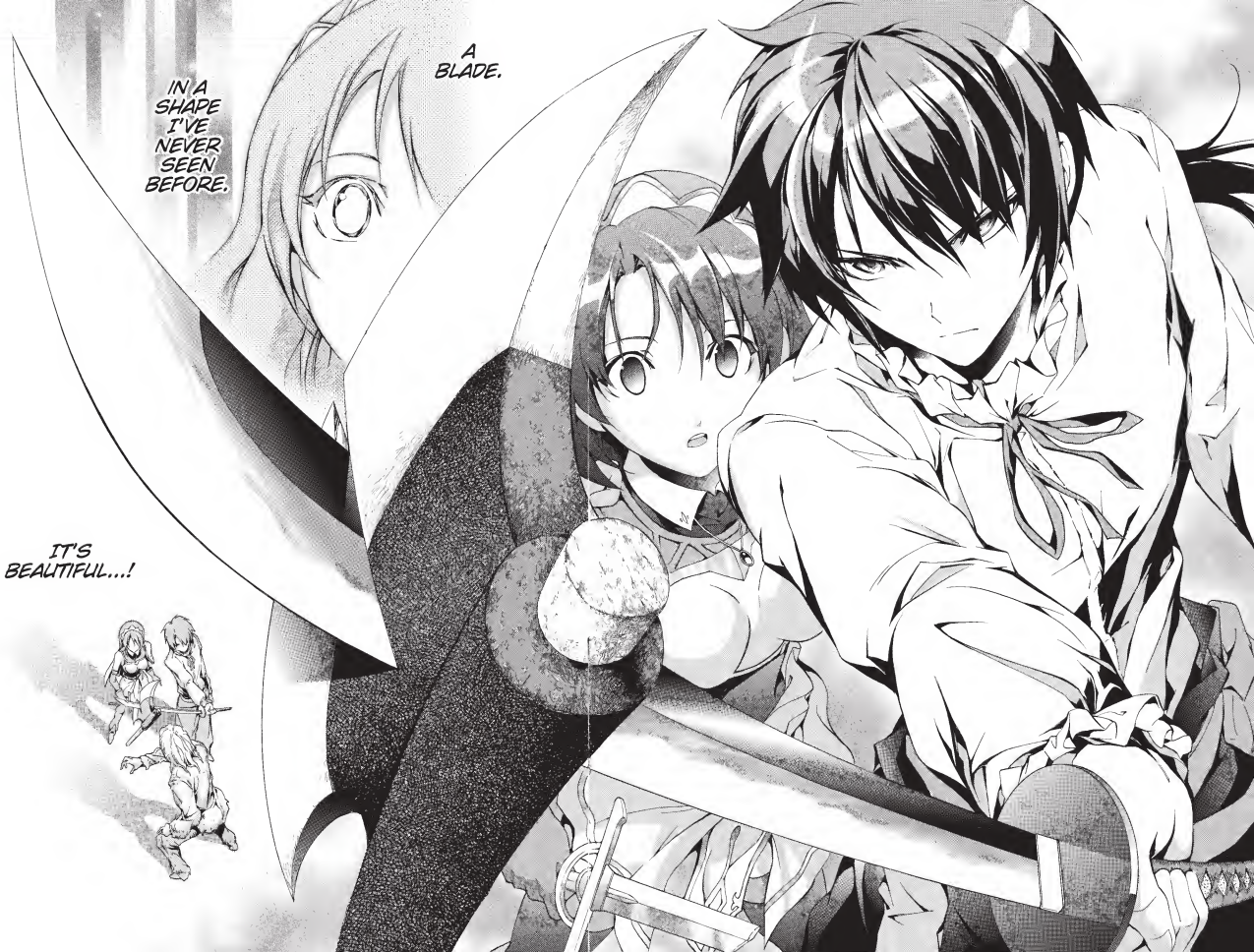




IN A  
SHAPE  
I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
BEFORE.

A  
BLADE.

IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL....!







YOU HAVE  
MADE  
"DEMON  
FACTS,"  
THEN.

A PITIFUL  
"VETERAN" OF  
THE WAR. UNABLE  
TO HOLD A JOB  
OR EVEN ADJUST  
TO NORMAL LIFE,  
YOU'VE LOST  
SIGHT OF ANY  
REASON TO LIVE  
AND HAVE GIVEN  
IN TO DESPAIR.  
AM I CORRECT?



URK...



I SEE  
YOU ARE  
MISSING  
FINGERS  
ON YOUR  
HAND.



WAIT!

AH!



THAT DULL  
GLEAM  
OFF HIS  
LEFT EYE...  
IS IT  
GLASS?

THANK  
YOU FOR  
HELPING  
ME--



SPLAAT

ACK  
!!

HEH  
HEH  
HEH...

MY...  
MY KNEES  
COLLAPSED  
ON ME!

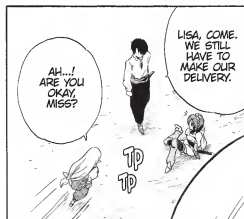




SH-SHUT UP!!

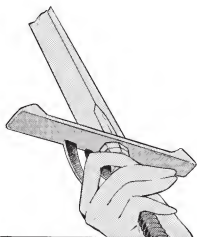
WELL, AREN'T YOU THE BATTLE-HARDENED KNIGHT. REALLY?

HA HA HA HA!



I HAVE AN  
EXPEDITION  
TOMORROW.

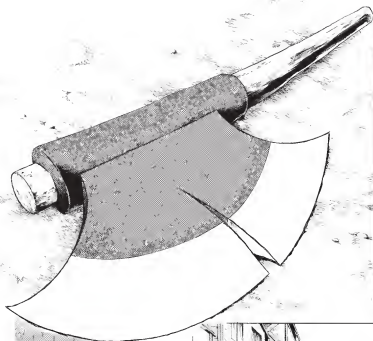
I...  
I HAVE  
TO GET A  
REPLACE-  
MENT  
SWORD.



HOW CAN  
THIS BE?  
IT WAS ONLY  
THE SWORD  
THAT  
BROKE...

BUT  
SOMEHOW,  
IT FEELS AS IF  
IT'S MY HEART  
THAT'S BEEN  
SHATTERED  
INTO PIECES.





YOU  
MEAN  
LUKE'S  
SWORD?



BUT THERE IS  
NO DOUBTING  
ITS POWER.  
IT MUST'VE  
BEEN MADE  
AT THE HAND  
OF A VERY  
FAMOUS  
BLACKSMITH.

IT MAY  
BE OF A  
SHAPE  
THAT I  
HAVE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
BEFORE...

A BLADE  
THAT CAN  
SLICE  
THROUGH  
IRON.



WHAT?!



OH, HE  
FORGED  
THAT  
ALL BY  
HIMSELF.

IT'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE A  
SECRET,  
THOUGH!

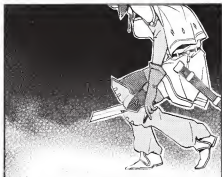


YEP!  
WE RUN A  
LITTLE SMITHY,  
MAKING AND  
REPAIRING  
EVERYDAY  
ITEMS ON THE  
EDGE OF THE  
SEVENTH  
DISTRICT.

IT'S  
CALLED  
ATELIER  
LIZA!

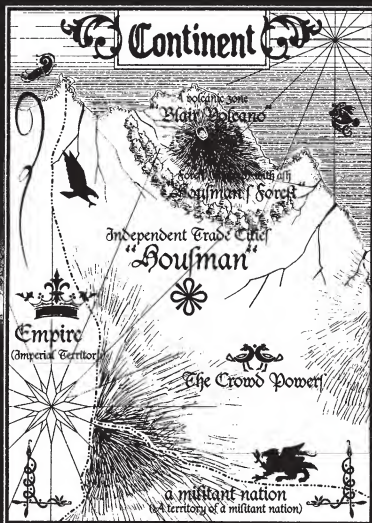


THAT  
BLADE...





**I  
MUST  
HAVE  
ONE!!**



Forty-four years after the  
close of the Valbanill War—  
The Empire, the Crowd Powers, and the  
Militant Nation have all withdrawn,  
segregating themselves from each other.  
And so, the continent entered an age of peace.

Tucked away in a corner of the  
continent, one of the independent  
Trade Cities, "Housman."





IT IS IN A  
SMALL  
SMITHY AT  
THE EDGE  
OF THIS  
CITY THAT  
OUR STORY  
BEGINS...



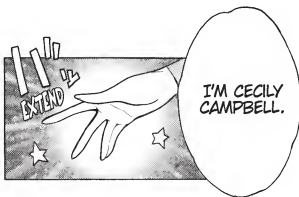
Chapter 1

# Trnight

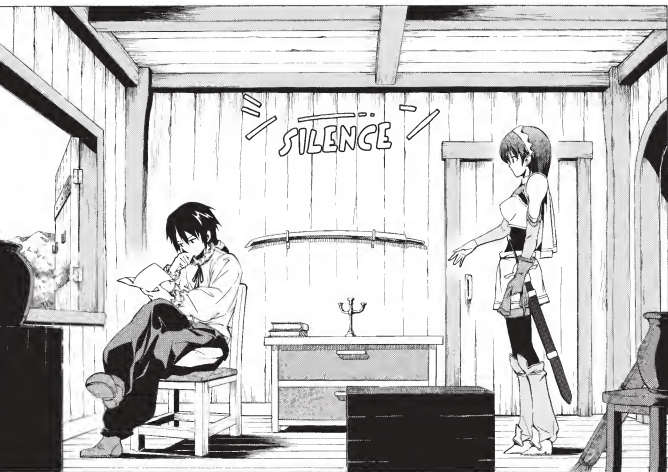
(Part 1)



LIKE  
AINS-  
WORTH.



I'M CECILY  
CAMPBELL.





IS A  
SWORD,  
JUST  
LIKE  
YOURS!



I TAKE  
ORDERS  
FOR  
EVERYDAY  
ITEMS  
ONLY.

WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU  
LIKE?

WHAT I  
WOULD  
LIKE  
YOU TO  
MAKE  
FOR  
ME...



IF YOU  
WANT A  
BLADE,  
GO  
ELSE-  
WHERE.

WHAT  
?

SORRY.  
THIS SMITHY  
CEASED  
MAKING  
WEAPONS  
WITH MY  
FATHER'S  
GENERATION.



LISA  
TOLD  
ME  
SO!

WH-WHY?!  
THAT BLADE  
YOU WORE  
IN THE CITY  
WAS ONE  
YOU FORGED  
YOURSELF,  
WAS IT NOT?

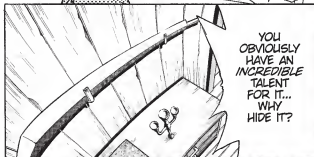


YEEP!!



LISA!

WOULD ANYONE  
CARE FOR  
SOME  
TEA?  
♪



YOU  
OBVIOUSLY  
HAVE AN  
INCREDIBLE  
TALENT  
FOR IT...  
WHY  
HIDE IT?



SOMEONE  
OF YOUR  
SKILL  
CAN'T BE  
UNAWARE,  
LUKE.

YOU HAVE  
TO KNOW  
JUST HOW  
POWERFUL  
THE BLADE  
YOU MADE  
IS.

GO  
HOME.



"KATANA."

SO THAT'S  
WHAT THAT  
CURVED  
BLADE IS  
CALLED.

NO  
EXCEP-  
TIONS.

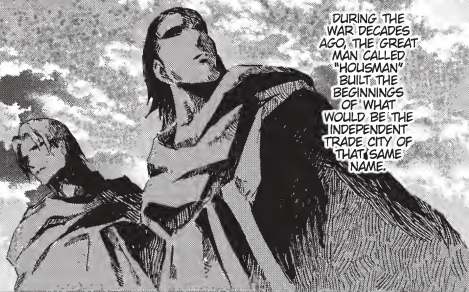
I FORGE  
KATANA  
FOR MY  
OWN USE  
ONLY.

THAT IS  
SOMETHING  
I MADE UP  
MY MIND  
ABOUT, A  
LONG TIME  
AGO.



HOUSMAN'S  
RIGHT-HAND  
MAN--  
AND PERSONAL  
FRIEND--  
WAS  
CAMPBELL.  
MY  
GRANDFATHER.

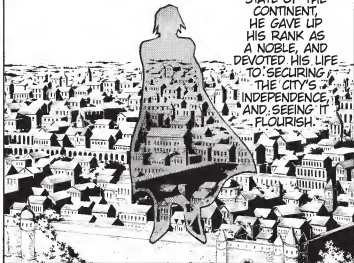
DURING THE  
WAR DECADES  
AGO, THE GREAT  
MAN CALLED  
"HOUSMAN"  
BUILT THE  
BEGINNINGS  
OF WHAT  
WOULD BE THE  
INDEPENDENT  
TRADE CITY OF  
THAT SAME  
NAME.



SINCE THEN, THE  
CAMPBELLS HAVE  
ALWAYS BEEN  
MEMBERS OF THE  
KNIGHT GUARD,  
DEDICATING THEIR  
LIVES TO THE  
PROTECTION  
OF THE CITY.

BUT  
TODAY,  
I GOT A  
HARSH  
LESSON.

GRIEVED AT  
THE TERRIBLE  
STATE OF THE  
CONTINENT,  
HE GAVE UP  
HIS RANK AS  
A NOBLE, AND  
DEVOTED HIS LIFE  
TO SECURING  
THE CITY'S  
INDEPENDENCE,  
AND SEEING IT  
FLOURISH.



NO, I  
NEED  
ONE...

SO I  
WANT  
ONE.

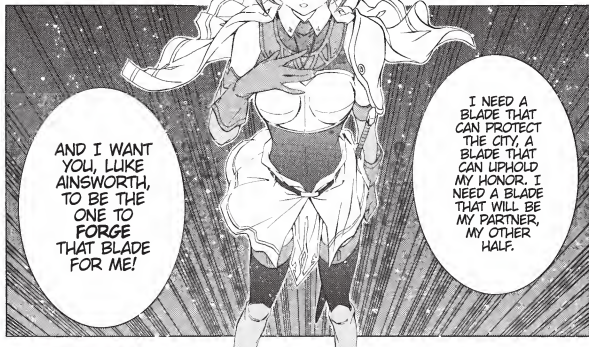
PATHETICALLY  
WEAK.  
NOT JUST  
IN BODY,  
BUT IN MY  
HEART AND  
SOUL AS  
WELL.

I KNOW  
NOW  
THAT  
I AM  
WEAK.





I NEED A  
"HEART"  
THAT  
CANNOT  
BREAK.



AND I WANT  
YOU, LLUIKE  
AINSWORTH,  
TO BE THE  
ONE TO  
FORGE  
THAT BLADE  
FOR ME!

I NEED A  
BLADE THAT  
CAN PROTECT  
THE CITY, A  
BLADE THAT  
CAN UPHOLD  
MY HONOR. I  
NEED A BLADE  
THAT WILL BE  
MY PARTNER,  
MY OTHER  
HALF.



OR IS  
THERE  
MORE TO  
THIS  
SERMON?

ARE YOU  
FINISHED?



IT'S NO  
SERMON. AS IT  
STANDS RIGHT  
NOW, IT IS  
NOTHING MORE  
THAN MY OWN  
SELFISH DESIRE.





THAT'S  
WHY I  
WANT  
YOU TO  
**SEE**  
**ME!**



HM?



WHAT?

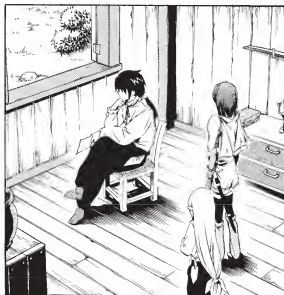
HUH?



AH...!

"THAT'S  
WHY I  
WANT  
YOU TO  
**SEE**  
**ME!**"





ALL  
RIGHT.

!

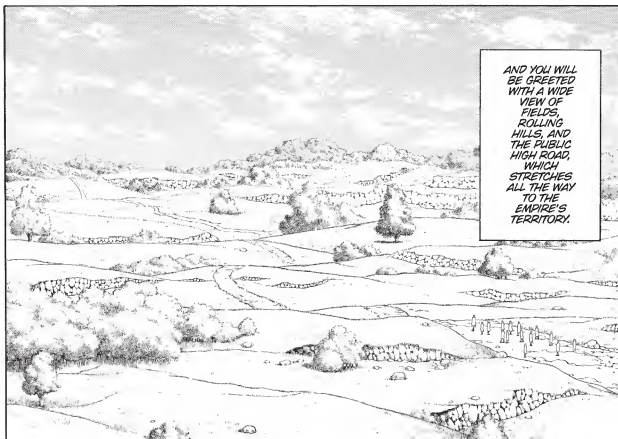
REALLY?!

WHY NOT?  
IT SOUNDS  
LIKE IT  
MIGHT BE  
INTERESTING.



THE NEXT  
MORNING...





AND YOU WILL  
BE GREETED  
WITH A WIDE  
VIEW OF  
FIELDS,  
ROLLING  
HILLS, AND  
THE PUBLIC  
HIGH ROAD,  
WHICH  
STRETCHES  
ALL THE WAY  
TO THE  
EMPIRE'S  
TERRITORY.

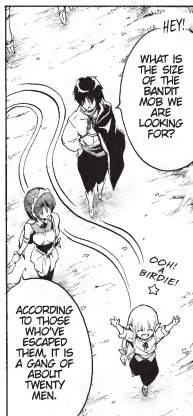


WE HAVE A  
BROAD AREA  
TO SEARCH,  
I'LL ADMIT.  
WE WILL TRY  
LOCATING  
THEIR BASE,  
FIRST.



SOME OF THE  
WITNESSES  
SAY THE  
GANG HAS  
SOME KIND  
OF INHUMAN  
BEAST TAMED  
AS A PET.

WE'VE  
HEARD  
SOME DIS-  
TURBING  
RUMORS.



ACCORDING  
TO THOSE  
WHO'VE  
ESCAPED  
THEM, IT IS  
A GANG OF  
ABOUT  
TWENTY  
MEN.

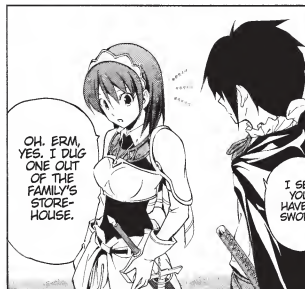


IT IS A BROAD  
TERM THAT  
ENCOMPASSES  
MANY THINGS,  
FROM  
HARMLESS  
STRAY DOGS  
TO MAN-  
EATING  
TENTACLE  
MONSTERS.

"INHUMAN."  
THAT  
WHICH IS  
NOT  
HUMAN.

"INHUMAN"?

YAAAY! ♪



OH. ERM,  
YES. I DUG  
ONE OUT  
OF THE  
FAMILY'S  
STORE-  
HOUSE.

I SEE  
YOU  
HAVE A  
SWORD.



PLEASE  
WATCH  
OVER ME,  
FATHER.  
KEEP ME  
SAFE.



BUT I  
KEPT  
THE  
FIRST  
ONE.

IT MAY BE  
BROKEN,  
BUT IT IS  
STILL A  
SYMBOL OF  
HOUSE  
CAMPBELL'S  
HONOR.



I AM A  
BLACK  
SMITH  
AFTER  
ALL.

IT  
DOESN'T.



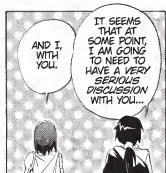
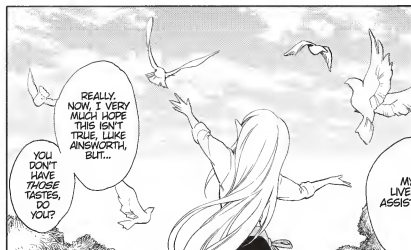
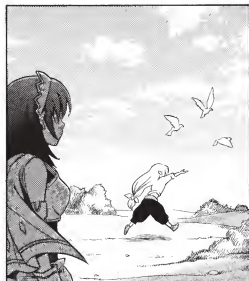
I-I  
KNOW IT  
MAY SEEM  
CHILDISH,  
BUT, LHM...

!



I DON'T  
DISLIKE  
THOSE WHO  
RESPECT  
THEIR  
BLADES.







THESE  
LITTLE  
BIRDIES  
TOLD  
ME.

I KNOW  
WHERE  
THE  
BANDITS  
LIVE!

HOOH  
?!

IT'S  
THIS  
WAY!

WHA  
?!

I THOUGHT  
IT MIGHT BE  
USEFUL TO  
BROUGHT  
HER ALONG.

OH, DID I  
FORGET TO  
MENTION?  
LISA CAN  
SPEAK  
WITH  
ANIMALS.

I DON'T  
THINK  
"CONVE-  
NIENCE"  
IS THE  
ISSUE  
HERE!

THANKS  
BIRDIES!

W-WAIT!

HEY!



WHILE THIS  
SCENE IS,  
ADMITTEDLY,  
JUST AN  
UNHAPPY  
ACCIDENT...

WHIZZZZ

I'LL  
CUT  
IT TO  
PIECES  
!!

GRRRR!!

AND IT  
TRIGGERED  
AN EXPLO-  
SION OF  
RAGE THAT  
BUBBLED  
UP, RIGHT  
OUT OF MY  
SOUL.

RNBL RNBL  
RNBL RNBL

THE SHEER  
EMBAR-  
RASSMENT  
OF SEEING  
SOMETHING  
A YOUNG  
LADY  
DOESN'T  
WANT TO  
SEE IS MOST  
DEFINITELY  
STILL THERE.

EVERY MAN  
IN THE AREA  
IMMEDIATELY  
CLENCHED  
HIS KNEES  
TOGETHER.







COME  
BACK  
HERE,  
YOU  
THIEVES  
!!



AAAH!!



LUKE!

WATCH  
NOW.  
WATCH  
ME  
CARE-  
FULLY!



DAM-  
MIT!



HN.





MAGES CAN  
AGITATE  
SPIRITS IN  
THE AIR,  
CAUSING A  
REACTION.

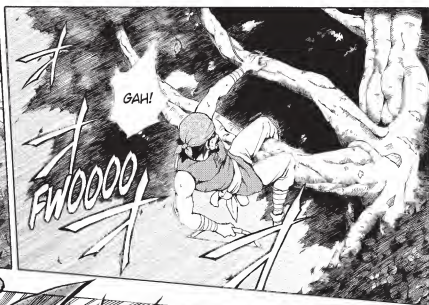
THIS  
REACTION  
CAN BE  
THINGS  
LIKE, SAY, A  
WHIRLWIND.



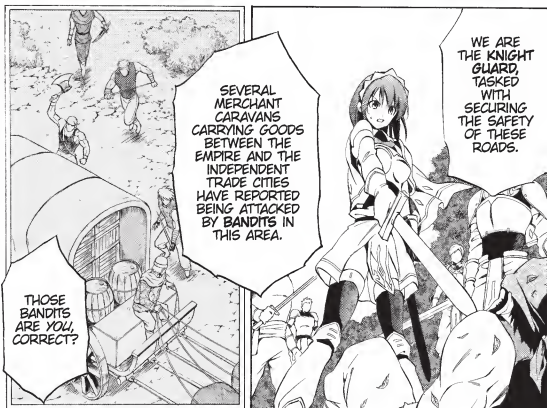
USING A  
CHUNK OF  
SMELTED  
IRON SAND,  
CALLED  
"JEWEL  
STEEL,"  
AS A MEDIUM...



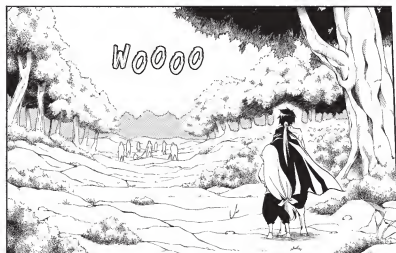
ALL IN ALL,  
IT IS A VERY  
CONVENIENT  
THING TO  
HAVE HANDY!

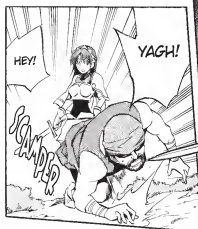
























AAAAA-  
AHHHH  
!!







I, HAVEN'T  
PROTECTED  
ANYONE...

I  
HAVEN'T  
DONE  
ANYTHING  
YET.



W-  
WAIT...



CLENCH

IS IT ALL  
GOING  
TO END  
BEFORE I  
CAN EVEN  
BEGIN?!





STAND,  
CECILY  
CAMPBELL.



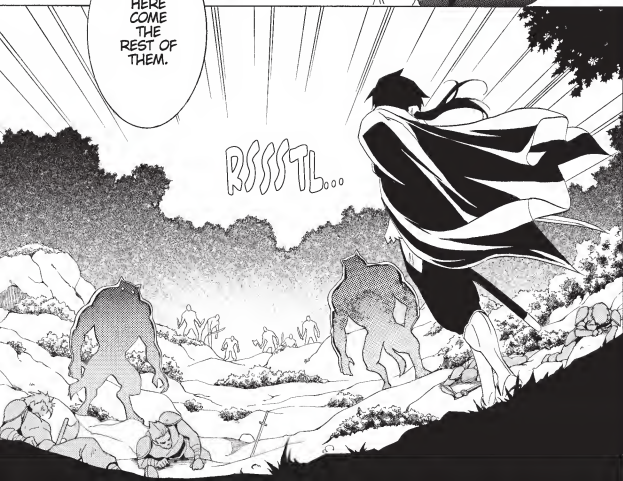


HERE  
COME  
THE  
REST OF  
THEM.



OR ARE  
YOU ALL  
BARK  
AND NO  
BITE?

.....  
!



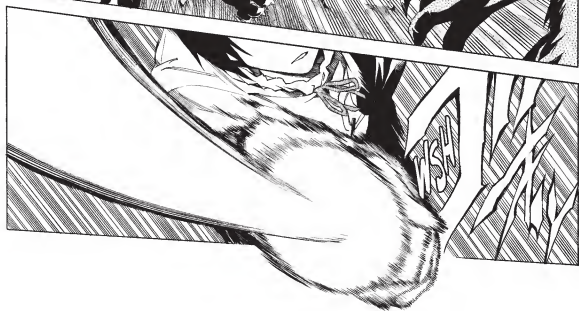
RSSSTL...











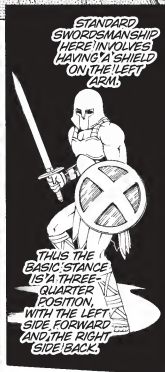




THE  
SHARPNESS  
OF THAT  
KATANA IS  
A THING OF  
WONDER,  
BUT THOSE  
SKILLS...!

HE'S  
INCREDIBLE!

GODS...





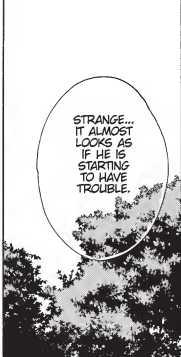




HE IS.



LUKE ALWAYS HAS TO DODGE THE ENEMY'S STRIKES BY A HAIR'S BREADTH.



STRANGE... IT ALMOST LOOKS AS IF HE IS STARTING TO HAVE TROUBLE.



DO YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING?



SO JOINING COMBAT WITHOUT ANY WAY TO STOP A BLADE IS JUST PLAIN UNTHINKABLE.

TO LOSE YOUR WEAPON ON THE BATTLEFIELD MEANS DEATH, RIGHT?



WHAT KIND OF BLADE IS THAT KATANA, ANYWAY?



ALL BLADES GET DULLED, AND EVEN BREAK WHEN YOU USE THEM.

EVEN LUKE'S KATANA.

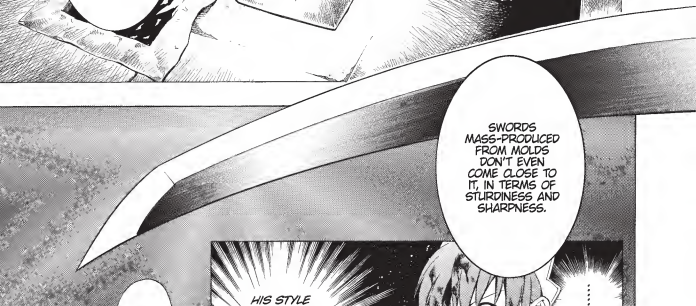
IT MEANS HE DOESN'T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO KEEP COMING WITHIN A HAIR'S BREADTH OF DEATH, IN RAPID SUCCESSION!



THE  
RESULTING  
BLADE IS  
CALLED A  
"KATANA."

IT'S CALLED  
"FOLDED  
STEEL."  
BLACKSMITHS  
WORK FOR  
HOURS,  
DILIGENTLY  
FOLDING AND  
TEMPERING  
THE METAL  
REPEATEDLY.

KATANAS  
ARE MADE BY  
ONLY A FEW  
BLACKSMITHS,  
THOSE WHO  
HAVE FOUND  
AN OLD,  
OLD WAY OF  
FORGING  
BLADES.



SWORDS  
MASS-PRODUCED  
FROM MOLDS  
DON'T EVEN  
COME CLOSE TO  
IT, IN TERMS OF  
STURDINESS AND  
SHARPNESS.

ANY-  
WAY...

HIS STYLE  
OF "VICTORY  
THROUGH  
INITIATIVE"...  
IS THAT A  
RESULT OF  
THE BLADE'S  
SPECIAL  
ATTRIBUTES?

LUKE  
SHOULD  
BE ABLE  
TO CLEAN  
UP ALL  
THIS BY  
HIMSELF  
JUST  
FINE...





BAT HMP

BUT  
ARE YOU  
SURE  
YOU'RE  
OKAY  
WITH  
THAT?







"I  
WANT  
YOU  
TO  
SEE  
ME!"

"I  
WANT  
YOU TO  
SEE  
ME!"

NO.

CLENCH

NO,  
IT'S  
NOT!!

NOT  
THIS  
ME...

BECAUSE  
THIS  
ME...



**BOOM!**

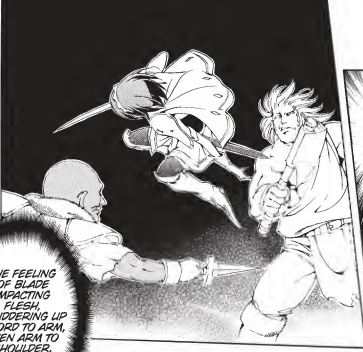
I  
MUST  
NEVER  
ACCEPT  
!!

HAAH  
!!

**ZASH!**



THAT  
SUDDEN,  
RAW  
JOLT.



THE FEELING  
OF BLADE  
IMPACTING  
FLESH,  
SHUDDERING UP  
SWORD TO ARM,  
THEN ARM TO  
SHOULDER.



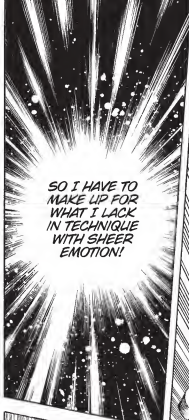
WHUK!



DON'T  
HESI-  
TATE.



LET  
THE  
RAGE  
OUT!



SO I HAVE TO  
MAKE UP FOR  
WHAT I LACK  
IN TECHNIQUE  
WITH SHEER  
EMOTION!



HIS  
STYLE  
WILL  
NEVER  
BE  
MINE.



I CAN'T  
BE LIKE  
LUKE...







N-  
NO  
WAY...!

NEXT  
!!



YOU  
HAVEN'T  
WON YET,  
WENCH!!



GAK?!

SLASH



QUIT  
WASTING  
TIME ON  
WORDS!



!

YOU'RE A MORE  
PASSIONATE  
WOMAN THAN I  
HAD THOUGHT,  
THOUGH YOU  
SEEM TO HAVE  
MISPLACED  
YOUR FEMININE  
RESTRAINT.

INTEREST-  
ING, CECILY  
CAMPBELL.



STAND!  
DO  
YOUR  
DUTY,  
AND  
BRING  
JUSTICE  
!!

WHAT  
ARE ALL  
OF YOU  
WAITING  
FOR?!



LET'S  
GET  
THEM  
!!



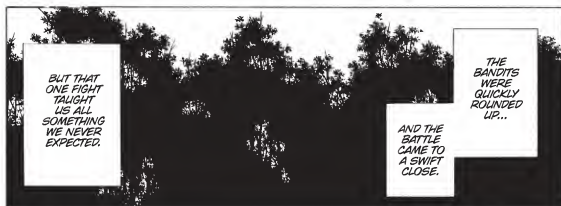
R-  
RIGHT!



WE  
CAN DO  
THIS.

IT WILL  
BE ALL  
RIGHT.

I  
CAN  
DO  
THIS  
!!



BUT THAT  
ONE FIGHT  
TAUGHT  
US ALL  
SOMETHING  
WE NEVER  
EXPECTED.

THE  
BANDITS  
WERE  
QUICKLY  
ROUNDED  
UP...

AND THE  
BATTLE  
CAME TO  
A SWIFT  
CLOSE.



WE LEARNED ABOUT THE TERROR THAT  
A DEMON PACT COULD BRING...





✧ Cecily Campbell ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

# The Valbanill War

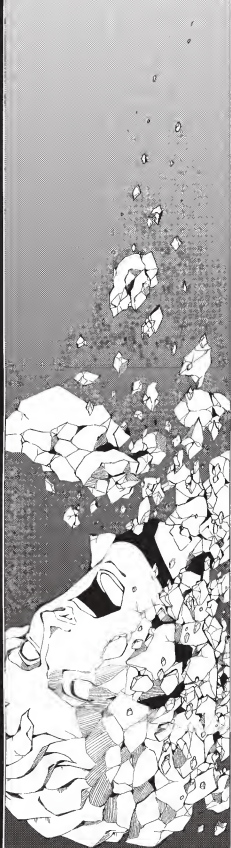
—Valbanill—

To a man,  
the survivors  
of that great  
conflict  
say it was  
“hell on  
earth.”

Forty-four  
years ago,  
war raged  
across  
the entire  
continent.

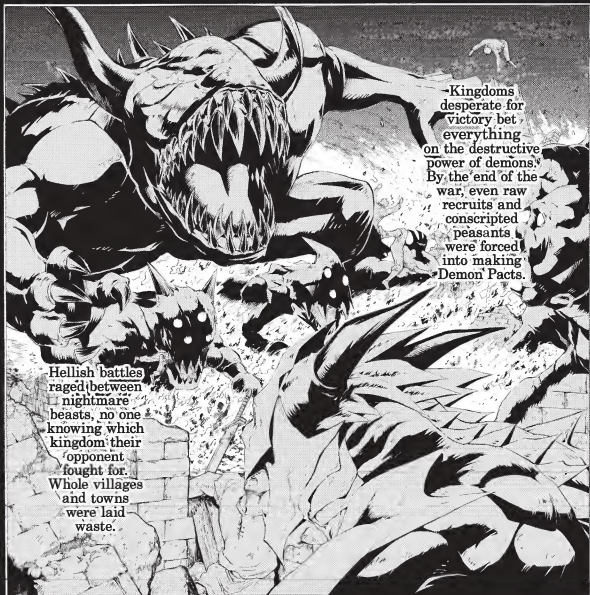
Their use  
meant that men  
did not fight  
other men,  
instead, they  
fought demons  
and hell-beasts.  
Thus it was  
named “The  
Valbanill War.”

That  
sentiment  
stems from  
one single  
thing:  
the Demon  
Pacts.



But these  
demons  
were not  
summoned  
from the  
depths  
of hell.  
They were  
made  
through the  
sacrifice of  
human  
flesh.





-Kingdoms desperate for victory bet everything on the destructive power of demons. By the end of the war, even raw recruits and conscripted peasants were forced into making Demon Pacts.

Hellish battles raged between nightmare beasts, no one knowing which kingdom their opponent fought for. Whole villages and towns were laid waste.

Thus the one thing that nearly drove the entire continent to ruin was safely consigned to oblivion. Or so everyone thought...

When the war finally ended, every kingdom unanimously agreed to ban the use of Demon Pacts.



 Chapter 2 **Knight** (Part 2)



STAND  
AND  
FIGHT,  
KNIGHTS!

GLURK!



DO NOT  
LET A  
SINGLE  
BANDIT  
GET  
AWAY!!







WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A LONG TALK, BECAUSE I DOUBT ANY ORDINARY BANDIT GANG COULD KEEP INHUMANS AS PETS.



GIVE UP!  
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE US.



HEH  
HEH  
HEH

HEH  
HEH  
...

SKGH

WHAT IS HE DOING?



SOME-  
THING IS  
WRONG.

HOLD!

HUH?

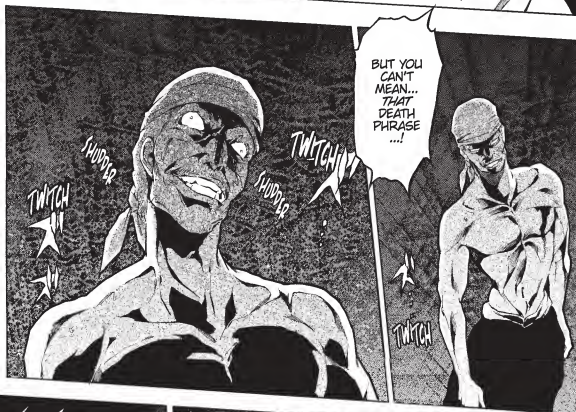




A DEATH  
PHRASE  
...?!



BUT YOU  
CAN'T  
MEAN...  
THAT  
DEATH  
PHRASE  
...!



YES.  
THE  
TRIGGER  
FOR A  
DEMON  
PACT!

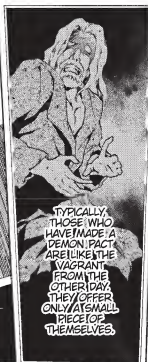






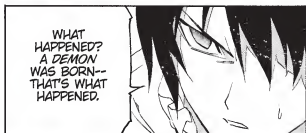


















NO, IT'S  
DIFFERENT.  
YE GODS,  
WHAT  
IS THAT  
THING?

IT HAS THE  
SHAPE OF  
A BEAST,  
BUT THERE'S  
NO LIVING  
WARMTH TO  
IT AT ALL!



AN  
ICE  
BEAST  
?!

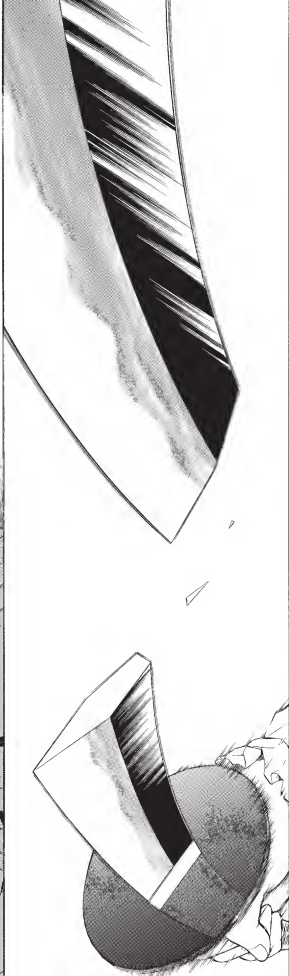
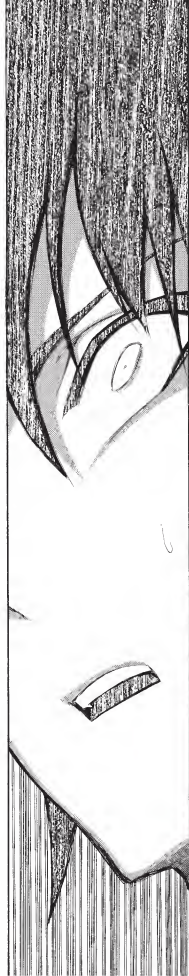




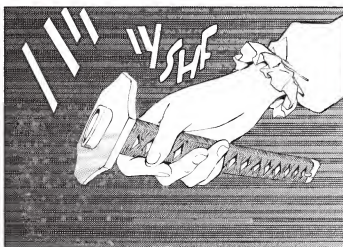












I  
WANT...

"I WANT  
YOU TO SEE  
ME!"

HN...?

SMELT.

SEPA-  
RATE.

BREAK.

FOLD.

FOLD.

FOLD.

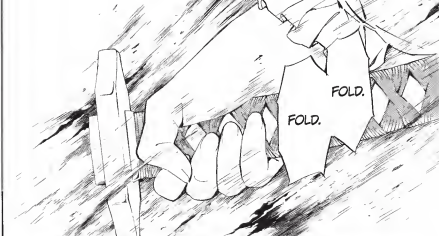
WHAT IS  
HE  
DOING?

FOLD.

LLIKE'S  
VOICE...

WELD.

FORGE.





CLAY  
COAT,  
ROUGH  
FINISH.

BLADE  
CON-  
STRUC-  
TION:  
FINAL  
STAGE.

HEAT.



CUT  
POINT.

BLADE  
CON-  
STRUC-  
TION:  
DRAW.



WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE DOING,  
AT A TIME  
LIKE THIS?!

LUKE.  
LISA...



OH,  
CRAP!

STRAIGHT-  
EN.

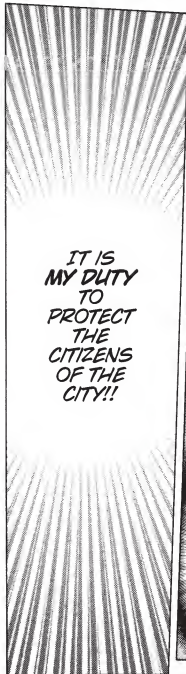
THE  
BEAST IS  
MOVING  
TO  
ATTACK  
AGAIN!

SHARP-  
EN.





FOUNDATION  
POLISH:  
BINSUI  
STONE.



IT IS  
MY DUTY  
TO  
PROTECT  
THE  
CITIZENS  
OF THE  
CITY!!



IT WON'T  
BE  
FINISHED  
IN TIME!

CHU-  
NAGURA  
STONE.

KAISEI  
STONE.

TCH!

KOMA-  
NAGURA  
STONE.



DAMMIT,  
WHO  
CARES  
WHAT  
THEY'RE  
DOING!

I AM THE  
CURRENT  
MASTER  
OF THE  
HONORABLE  
AND  
VENERABLE  
HOUSE  
CAMPBELL!

CRASH





LICHIGO-  
MORI  
STONE.

NUGUI.

FINAL  
POLISH:  
JIZUYA  
STONE.

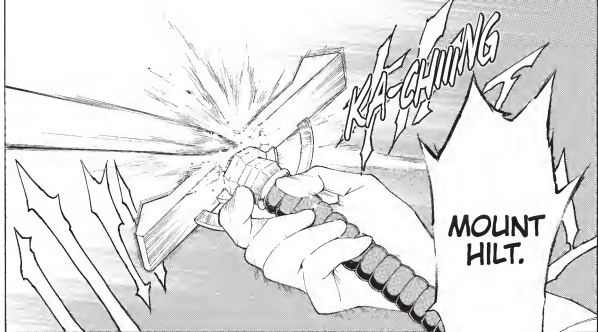
HADORI  
FINISH.  
MIRROR  
POLISH.  
TIP  
POLISH.

**THIS IS  
WHO I,  
CECILY  
CAMPBELL,  
REALLY  
AM!!**

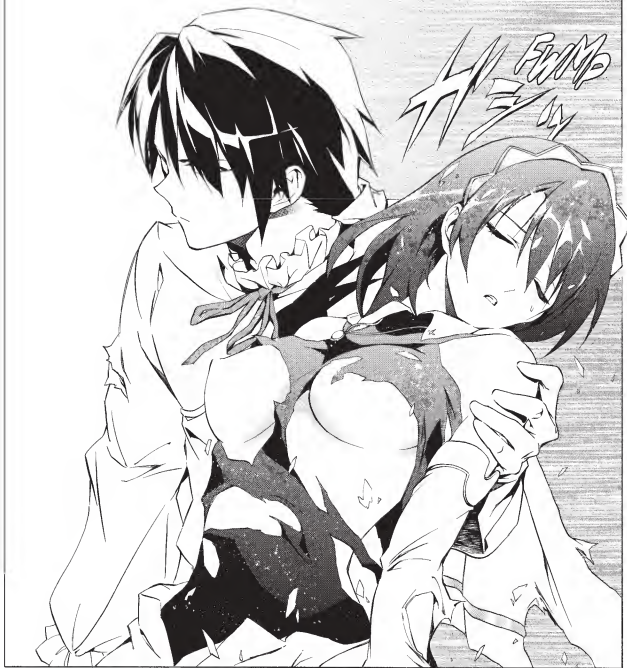


A black and white manga-style illustration of a young woman with short, spiky hair, wearing a dark top and a light-colored skirt. She is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose, looking towards the viewer with a determined expression. Her right hand is holding a sword, and there are several sharp, crystalline shards flying around her. The background is a large, jagged rock formation.









THANKS  
TO YOU,  
I WAS  
ABLE TO  
COMPLETE IT,  
UNINTER-  
RUPTED.

LUKE...

BUOOOOOSH

NOW,  
LEAVE  
THE  
REST OF  
THIS TO  
ME!



✧ *Luke Ainsworth* ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶





**A RED  
KATANA!!**

**BWOOSH**



**GO  
FOR  
IT,  
LUKE!**



**NO,  
NEVER  
MIND,  
ANY OF  
THAT  
RIGHT  
NOW...**

**BUT,  
WHERE DID  
HE GET IT?  
AND WHY  
IS IT RED?  
IS IT  
BURNING,  
MAYBE?**



# Knight

Chapter

3

(Part 3)













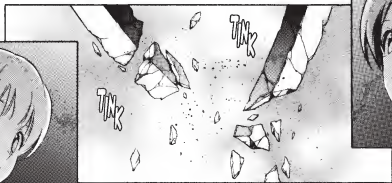






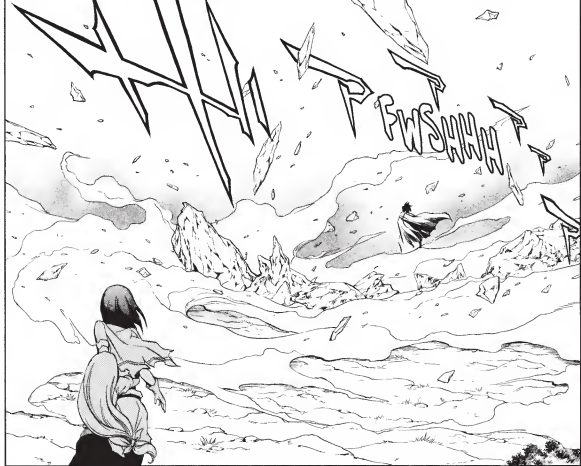




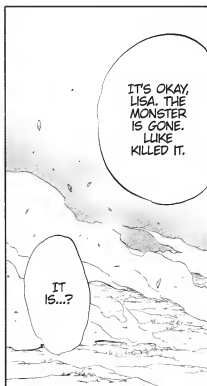








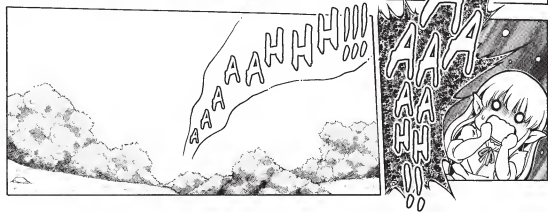






I...I'M FINE.  
JUST DO  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT...  
ABOUT THAT!

"THAT"  
...?





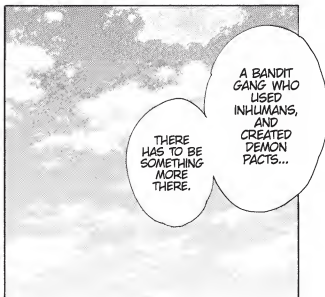
PLANS  
NEED TO BE  
DEvised  
IMMEDI-  
ATELY!

I MUST  
REPORT  
THIS TO THE  
CAPTAIN,  
AS SOON  
AS I  
RETURN.

TWP TWP



GLANCE



A BANDIT  
GANG WHO  
USED  
INHUMANS,  
AND  
CREATED  
DEMON  
FACTS...

THERE  
HAS TO BE  
SOMETHING  
MORE  
THERE.



DO YOU  
ALWAYS BEAT  
THE MOST  
CONVENIENT  
PERSON TO A  
PULP WHEN  
YOU GET  
"DISTRESSED"?

ERM...  
I APOLO-  
GEE.  
I...I WAS  
DIS-  
TRESSED.

AH...  
UM...

I MEAN,  
YOU WERE  
THE ONE  
WHO GOT A  
NOSE BLEED  
FROM JUST  
A LITTLE  
PEEK.

DON'T  
GET  
MAD,  
LUKE...



Uppppp



CAN WE  
DROP  
THIS  
SUBJECT  
NOW?!

THEY  
WERE SO  
BIG AND  
BOUNCY,  
TOO!

I WISH  
MINE  
WERE  
THAT BIG!

SHUT  
UP,  
OR I'M  
KICKING  
YOU  
OUT.

HEE HEE!  
WHO  
WOULD'VE  
GUESSED  
YOU WERE  
SUCH AN  
INNOCENT!





LUKE  
AINSWORTH.

BY THE  
WAY...



HAVE YOU  
THOUGHT  
OVER THE  
REQUEST  
I MADE  
YESTERDAY?



THAT ONE,  
HIS LEFT, IS  
FLAT AND  
LIFELESS.

HE  
ONLY  
HAS  
ONE  
EYE.

NO...  
HE IS A  
MYSTERY,  
BUT I  
MUSTN'T  
PRY.  
THAT  
WOULD BE  
BOORISH.

THEN  
THERE WAS  
THAT DARK  
BALL OF  
FLAME,  
AND THE  
KATANA  
HE DREW  
FROM IT.

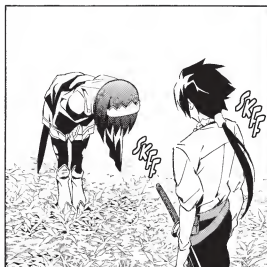
HE SAID HE  
HAD GIVEN UP  
THE ART OF  
FORGING  
SWORDS,  
BUT HE WIELDS  
ONE WELL,  
VERY WELL.

WHO  
ARE  
YOU,  
LUKE...?

AND HE IS  
FAMILIAR  
WITH  
DEMON  
PACTS.

AND ALL I  
NEED FROM  
HIM IS  
JUST ONE  
THING  
ALONE!

WILL YOU  
FORGE A  
BLADE  
FOR ME?





LUKE...  
THANK  
YOU!

I  
PROMISE  
YOU,  
LUKE...



ALL  
RIGHT.



AH!

LUKE  
BO  
MA





FOR THAT  
REASON...

THAT BLADE  
WILL ONLY  
EVER BE  
USED IN THE  
DEFENSE OF  
THE CITY  
AND ITS  
PEOPLE.

PLEASE  
MAKE  
ME...

AS IT IS  
FOR  
EVERYONE'S  
SAKE...

PLEASE!  
MAKE  
ME THE  
GREATEST  
SWORD  
IN THE  
WORLD!!



HM?  
WHAT  
IS IT?



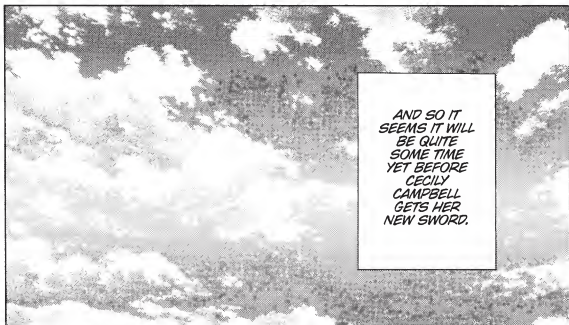
THEY  
ARE SO  
ALIKE.

I JUST...  
HEARD  
SOMETHING  
SIMILAR FROM  
SOMEONE ELSE,  
A LONG  
TIME AGO.

NOTHING.

IT'S  
NOTHING...  
FORGET  
IT.













HE IS A  
DEMON!



YOU WANTED  
TO SPEAK  
WITH ME,  
COMMANDER?



HOW-  
EVER....

YES.  
WELL DONE  
ON YOUR  
EXPEDITION  
THE OTHER  
DAY.

I HAVE  
BAD NEWS  
ABOUT THE  
BANDITS  
YOU HAD  
CAPTURED.

THIRD DISTRICT KNIGHT  
GUARD CAPTAIN  
—HANNIBAL QUASAR—





WHAT  
?!



I WILL  
BE BLUNT.  
ALL  
SEVENTEEN  
OF THEM  
WERE KILLED  
IN THEIR  
CELLS LAST  
NIGHT.



IT  
WAS A  
BLOODY  
SCENE.

THEY  
OBSOULES  
SUFFERED,  
BLEEDING  
FROM EVERY  
ORIFICE  
THEY HAD.



GOODS  
THAT WILL  
BE PUT  
UP FOR  
AUCTION  
AT THIS  
YEAR'S  
MARKET.

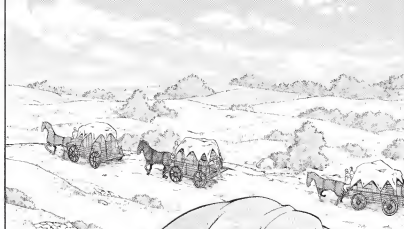
HOWEVER,  
WE ARE  
NOT LEFT  
ENTIRELY  
IN THE LURCH.  
WE DID  
MANAGE TO  
DISCOVER  
WHAT THE  
BANDITS  
WERE AFTER.



GODS...!

IT WAS NO  
NATURAL DEATH.  
ONLY A SPECIFIC  
PARASITE CAN  
KILL A MAN SO.  
THOSE BANDITS  
WERE VERY  
DELIBERATELY  
SILENCED.





AUCTION  
GOODS...?

ANYTHING IN  
PARTICULAR?



YES,  
THE  
DEMON  
BLADE  
ARIA.

*To be continued...*



✧ *Lisa* ✧

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶



**Lisa's**

# Let's Learn Blacksmithing Corner!

Thank you so much for reading *The Sacred Blacksmith!*  
I'm Lisa, the assistant at Atelier Liza. ♪  
How was Volume 1? With this corner, I hope to show you  
lots more things that will help you to enjoy the world of  
*The Sacred Blacksmith* even more! So without further  
ado, come on in!

## Class #1: Making A Katana ~Part 1~

It never bends, it never breaks, and it's extremely sharp!

Unlike the straight swords that knights like Cecily use, Luke's katana has a distinctive curve. It may have broken during his fight with the demon in Chapter 2, but a knight with a normal sword wouldn't have been able to fight at all! A katana is a very powerful blade, strong enough to even cut into axes, like in Chapter 1. But what makes it that strong?

Sharp-eyed readers will have noticed that Luke's katana is modeled on the real-world Japanese katana. Unlike most swords, Japanese katana are made of two different types of steel, giving it the toughness to stay sharp, and the resilience to avoid breaking. But that's not much of an explanation. What exactly goes into making a Japanese katana?

Even Miss Cecily wanted a sword like Luke's. But how do people make blades that are so incredible? Turn to the next page, where I explain all about how they're made! ♪

**GO!**



Why is Luke's sword so amazing?!



It sounds really easy, but it's actually a super-long process!



3. Shape the blade.

2. Forge the steels.

1. Assemble the correct steels.

The 3-Step Forging Process

It doesn't break!  
It doesn't bend!  
It's super sharp!

# How To Forge A Japanese Katana

Next, the pieces of jewel steel are covered in clay, stacked in a pile, and heated in the furnace. When the clay melts off, they're pulled out as one single lump. The blacksmith will then hammer the lump into a block about 6 x 9cm in size.

2 Welding & Forging



Not all jewel steel blooms have the same amount of carbon in them, so putting lots of different ones together makes the katana even more resilient!

Katanas are made from a special metal called "jewel steel." But jewel steel comes in awkward, lumpy "blooms," so they need to be melded together (smelting), and then cut into easy-to-use pieces (separation).

1 Smelting & Separation

## Building the Skin Steel

The result of the folding process is a hard steel known as "skin steel." Katanas are made from this steel, and the softer steel that the skin steel wraps around is called "core steel." Both types of steel are made at the same time.



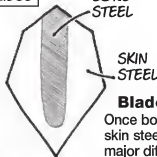
Now that we have the materials, it's time to forge the blade! The jewel steel block is heated in the furnace and then drawn into a long bar. The bar is folded back on itself, reheated, and drawn out into a long bar again. This is repeated about 15 times. Man, does it take a lot of strength! This process evens out the carbon content and pounds any impurities out of the steel.

3 Folding

RIDGE

CORE STEEL

SKIN STEEL



EDGE

## Building the Core Steel

Core steel is a softer metal made from iron mixed with a little jewel steel. They are heated and folded together in a process just like that for skin steel.

## Blade Construction

Once both steels are ready, it's time to wrap the hard, carbon-rich skin steel around the soft, carbon-poor core steel. This is the first major difference between the katana and other swords. It's this process that gives the katana the hardness that keeps it from bending, and the flexibility that prevents it from breaking.

Are just a few words not enough? Here's a detailed explanation of the forging process!





The weight of the steel determines how long the blade will be, so blacksmiths hammer away to draw the blade out to just the right length!

Now that the two types of steel are put together, the result is heated and carefully drawn out into a "blank," the basic shape of the sword. Blacksmiths keep the final shape they want the blade to be firmly in mind during this step.

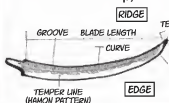
#### 4 Elongation

The surface of the blade is cleaned with a very rough type of whetstone, called an "arato."

A big plane that can hone even pig steel, the arato will grind down all the little dips and bumps until the blade is perfectly smooth!

#### 7 Rough Finish

Once the blank is made and the tip is cut, the general shape of the blade is finished. Next, on to some refinements! The blade is once again heated in the forge, and the edge is made. A rasp is used to even out the thickness. Next up, refining the blade's distinctive



#### 6 Shaping the Blade

curve and the hamon temper line.

Once the blank is finished, the blacksmith goes chop-chop, and cuts the end off on the diagonal. The tip is then heated in the forge and shaped from the edge back to the ridge into its distinct curve.

#### 5 Cutting the Point

Once the blade clay has dried on the blade, it is heated in the furnace to about 8,000 degrees! The blacksmith will then pull it out at the right moment, and quench it in a barrel of water. That's what makes the blade curve! Blacksmiths know the exact moment to pull the blade out by its color, but figuring out what that "right color" is takes practice.

#### 9 Finishing the Blade



Depending on how the blacksmith puts on the blade clay, the curve of the blade will change. The thinly-covered edge will get really hard, and the thickly-covered ridge will become much more supple! When cooled, it gives the katana its distinctive curve.

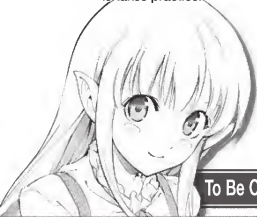
Heat-resistant clay is mixed with charcoal powder and polishing stone powder to make "blade clay." This determines the pattern of the blade's "hamon" or temper line, so the blade clay is applied very carefully in waves. The part of the blade that needs the most heat only gets a thin coat. The rest of the blade is coated thickly.

#### 8 Clay Coat

The main storyline mentions the names of many of these stages, but now you have a better idea of what they really involve! This isn't the end, though. There's lots and lots more steps to go! So next time, we'll talk about the "polishing" stages that finish the blade. Hope you're looking forward to it as much as I am!

There are many more steps after this, including straightening the blade, setting the edge, polishing, and many other important things. Once all of those are done, the Japanese katana is finally complete!

To Be Continued!





“Whoa, this is more fun than the original novels!”

That was the first thing that popped into my head when I read the first chapter of the manga. “Oh crap,” I remember thinking. “I could be in trouble here.”

I never dreamed the manga would be able to expand the world so much, or bring it to such vibrant life. I await each new chapter with both trepidation and breathless anticipation.

Yamada-sensei, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I look forward to more of your awesome and awe-inspiring work. Luna-san and I won't let ourselves fall short of your standard!

—Novel Author  
Isao Miura

**Congratulations  
on the publishing  
of Volume 1!**

**Yamada-san,  
I can't wait to  
see more of your  
Miss Cecily and  
Friends in action!**







# A Lazy Afterword



**Baseball Fan  
NAKAMURA-SAN**



**Tetris Master  
YAMADA-SAN**



**Lover of Rice  
YOSHINO-SAN**

IT'S MY GOAL TO MAKE EACH SCENE FIT SNUGLY INSIDE OF THE IMAGE THAT READERS SEE WHEN THEY READ THE ORIGINAL NOVELS.

Even when I play Tetris, I'S under the name "Kotaro."



I LIKE TO THINK STORIES LIKE THIS ARE ALL ABOUT HOW YOU PRESENT AND CONSTRUCT EACH SCENE, PANEL BY PANEL. (A SENSE OF STRUCTURE AND SPACE, HONED BY YEARS OF TETRIS!)



BY GREAT GOOD FORTUNE, I WAS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DRAW THE MANGA VERSION OF THE SACRED BLACK-SMITH.

NICE TO MEET YOU, AND GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. I'M YAMADA.



*Pleased ta mee'cha!*

MMMM! THIS RICE IS SO GOOD!!

ERH, ANYWAY... I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.



ENOUGH OF THAT SILLY DRAWING CRAP! LET'S PLAY BASE-BALL!!

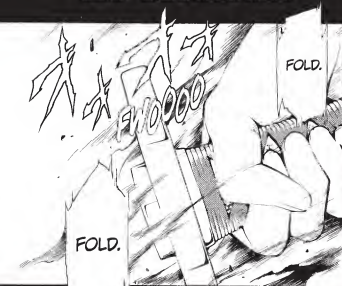
That's the kind of place I work in.

FINDING A GROOVE IS GOOD, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET STUCK IN A RUT AND JUST CHURN OUT COOKIE-CUTTER SCENES. I WANT EACH PANEL I DRAW TO BE ONE THAT...



IN REGARDS TO THE ART, AS A PERSONAL NORMAL, THE FINE NUANCES OF DESIGN (SHIFTED ON/META LITTLE ACROSS THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS.

AT FIRST, I TRIED A DESIGN THAT WAS VERY CLOSE TO LUNA-SENSEI'S.





PATHETI-  
CALLY WEAK.  
NOT JUST  
IN BODY,  
BUT IN MY  
HEART AND  
SOUL AS  
WELL.

I KNOW  
NOW THAT  
I AM  
WEAK.

I  
WANT  
A  
SWORD  
LIKE  
YOURS!

I NEED A  
"HEART"  
THAT  
CANNOT  
BREAK.

SO I  
WANT  
ONE.

I  
WANT  
YOU  
TO  
**SEE**  
ME!

FOLD.

FWOOSH!





BRUSH  
THE  
SLEEP  
FROM  
YOUR  
EYES.

REACH  
FOR  
THE  
TRUTH.

HOLD  
THE  
WIND IN  
THESE  
HANDS.



CUT  
POINT.  
BLADE  
CONSTRUCTION:  
FINAL  
STAGE.  
ROUGH  
FINISH.

CORE  
STEEL,  
COMPLETE.  
SKIN  
STEEL,  
COMPLETE.  
BLADE  
CON-  
STRUCTION:  
DRAW.

CLAY COAT.  
HEAT.  
STRAIGHTEN.

FWOOOSH



SHARPEN.

FOUNDA-  
TION  
POLISH:  
BINSUI  
STONE.  
KAISEI  
STONE.



CHU-NAGURA  
STONE.  
KOMA-NAGURA  
STONE.  
UCHIGOMORI-  
STONE.  
FINAL POLISH...



MOUNT  
HILT.

FWOOOOOSH

MIRROR  
POLISH.  
TIP  
POLISH.

JIZUYA  
STONE.

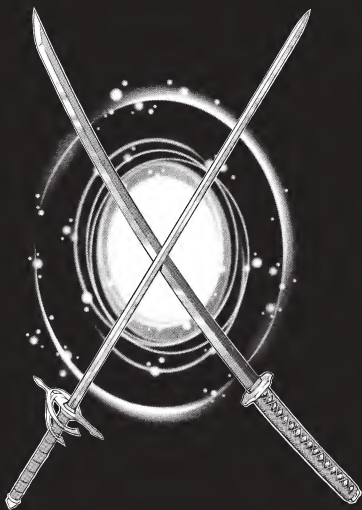
NUGUI.  
HADORI  
FINISH.

KILL  
GOD.



*The Sacred Blacksmith*  
**聖剣の刀鍛冶**  
フ ラ ッ ク ス ミ ス





He who would forge the  
"Sacred Sword." She who  
would be its "sheath."

With their meeting,  
the wheels of Fate have  
begun to turn.



The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 ブ ラ ッ ク ス ミ 鍛 冶



## STAFF CREDITS

|              |                                             |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|
| translation  | Adrienne Beck                               |
| adaptation   | Janet Houck                                 |
| lettering    | Roland Amago                                |
| layout       | Bambi Eloriaga-Amago                        |
| cover design | Nicky Lim                                   |
| copy editor  | Shanti Whitesides                           |
| editor       | Adam Arnold                                 |
| publisher    | Jason DeAngelis<br>Seven Seas Entertainment |

### THE SACRED BLACKSMITH VOLUME 1

Copyright © 2009 Kotaro Yamada, Isao Miura / MEDIA FACTORY

First published in Japan in 2009 by MEDIA FACTORY, Inc.

English translation rights reserved by Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.  
under the license from MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., Tokyo, Japan.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders. This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of  
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-937867-32-4

Printed in Canada

First Printing: May 2013

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



FOLLOW US ONLINE: [www.gomanga.com](http://www.gomanga.com)

## READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





# THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

Like her father and grandfather before her, Cecily Campbell has entered the noble ranks of the Knight Guard, sworn to protect the Independent Trade City of Housman. Now the time has come for Cecily to prove herself in battle. A veteran of the great Valbanill War goes berserk in the marketplace. Cecily confronts him with the prized sword she inherited from her father—and it shatters to pieces!

All seems lost, when a lone figure swoops to the rescue, an expert swordsman with a sword unlike any Cecily has ever seen. His name is Luke Ainsworth, a blacksmith of much renown, who will forge a new sword for Cecily and join her down a path of magical adventure beyond her wildest dreams.



OLDER TEEN (16+)

Now a hit anime from  
**FUNIMATION**

Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.  
[www.gomanga.com](http://www.gomanga.com)  
Distributed by Macmillan